

**Lynas must go if Pakatan wins, says Wong Tack**  
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Himpunan Hijau chairperson Wong Tack is standing by his long-term goal of shutting down the Lynas Advanced Materials Plant (Lamp), saying Pakatan Rakyat must not renege on its promise to do so should the coalition capture Putrajaya in the coming general election.

In clearing the air over his controversial "front door" statement in regards to the rare earths refinery last week, Wong (left) said he regretted the "indirect way" in which he had spoke, as this had led to the misunderstanding.

"The reason for the confusion and resulting disappointment was due to my poorly made 'off-the-cuff' statement, which gave the impression that I welcome Lynas.

"Should Pakatan form the next government of Malaysia, the Temporary Operating License (TOL) for Lynas to operate must be revoked and stop work order must be issued immediately," he said in a statement issued today.

Wong explained that in order to then challenge the termination of the TOL, Lynas must go through the most stringent and transparent detailed environment impact assessment (DEIA) process, of which he was sure there would be little chance of success.

"In my professional view, given my experience as an environmental consultant, Lynas will not be able to comply with the many requirements of the DEIA, including stringent public consultation process and especially on the disposal of the processed waste.

"To put it simply, once the plant is shut down, there is no chance for it to reopen again" he said.

The same, he added, applies to other projects which pose a hazard to the environment as well as to the health and livelihood of the people, such as the gold mining in Raub, Pengerang petrochemical plant and the construction of dams in East Malaysia.

'Decision made Pakatan leadership'

Wong came under fire for his statement on March 12 after being confirmed as DAP's candidate for the Bentong parliamentary seat, in which he stated he would have no problem with the plant should Lynas go through the "front door" to prove the plant was safe.

"If Lynas can go through proper processes and provide a DEIA which complied with our laws and procedures, why not?

"If Lynas has the money to put in place a waste management process that is 100 percent safe to our land, if Lynas can invest to change Malaysia's climate and find a desert in this country, then come here and open your plant," he had said.

In his statement today, Wong also reiterated that he would run for the Bentong parliament seat as an "independent green candidate".

Noting the decision for him to run under the DAP ticket was that of the Pakatan leadership, he said he could have easily been asked to contest under PKR or PAS.

"We (Himpunan Hijau) want a voice in parliament that would speak clearly and loudly for the protection of our environment, for our future generations."

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